Joint Venture Training Course with United States

524. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving any access to the United States of America to India Military bases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any joint venture training course with US at the Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School (CIJWS) in Mizoram; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no joint venture training course with the US in any Military training establishment in India. Indian Military training establishments, including the Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School (CIJWS) , regularly accept officers on training from friendly foreign countries. Offcers from the US have attended the training courses at CIJWS in 1996, 1997 and 2000.

Shortage of Pilots in Air Force

525. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item captioned "Shortage of pilots Cripples Air Force" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 16th June, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Air Force (IAF) is facing shortage of pilots at a time when it is aspiring to prepare itself to become an arrow space power of the World; and

(c) the details of shortage of pilots in the IAF and what steps are being taken to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the said news item. While there is an overall shortage

of pilot in the Indian Air Force, the combat units are being manned almost 100% by making some internal adjustments.

Sustained publicity efforts are on to attract talented youth to the IAF. Schools and Colleges are visited regularly to generate interest. A website is also operative on the internet to provide career information.

Blast at Indian Consulate in Iran

526. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Consulate in Zahidan province of Iran was ripped apart in an blast on 14th June, 2001;

(b) if so, the extent of loss of lives and property suffered in the blast;

(c) whether an enquiry has been held by the Iranian authorities to know the culprits behind this blast; and

(d) if so, the details of the enquiry report and the steps taken to ensure safety of Consulate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) There was a blast outside Indian Consulate in Zahidan on 14th June, 2001.

(b) There was no injury or loss of life. Window panes of the Consulate building were broken and the boundary wall developed some craters on account of the blast.

(c) Yes, the Iranian Authorities are enquiring into the matter.

(d) The enquiry is yet to be completed. The Iranian authorities have stepped up security around Indian diplomatic premises in Iran. In the Indian Consulate in Zahidan, electronic and physical measures for the security of the Consulate have been augmented.

Negotiation for Chinese Occupied Territory in Ladakh

527. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's latest view point with regard to Chinese occupied Indian territory in Ladakh of Jammu and Kashmir.